

## **Iowa Legislative Information Office**

**August 13, 2007**

**For more information: 515-281-5129**

# Former Governors Vilsack and Branstad to host public health care hearings as part of bipartisan health care commission

**Locations: Council Bluffs, Indianola and Bettendorf**

Former Iowa Governors Tom Vilsack and Terry Branstad will co-host several public hearings in September to gather suggestions from Iowans on how to reform our state's health care system. The events will occur in Council Bluffs on September 4, Indianola on September 26 and in Bettendorf on September 27.

"Living up to one of the great moral challenges of our time requires that we provide quality, affordable, and accessible health care for all of our citizens," former Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack said. "Progress has been made, but we must not and can not stop there. That is why this bipartisan Commission's work is so important and why Iowans must be given a chance to fully engage in the debate and discussion of how we live up to that responsibility."

"The availability of affordable health care for Iowa small businesses and families is key to our state's future growth and the wellbeing of our families," former Iowa Governor Terry Branstad said.

The two former governors are acting in support of the bipartisan "Legislative Commission on Affordable Health Care Plans for Small Businesses & Families," which was created during the 2007 legislative session. The commission's mandate is to build a consensus for a reform effort to insure more Iowans, make health care affordable, and improve quality and access. The commission is made up of 10 legislators and representatives of medical providers, small businesses, individual consumers, and the insurance industry.

The public hearings will help gather the concerns and suggestions of Iowans from all walks of life. Each public hearing will last two hours. Those interested in presenting at one of the meetings may sign up on the premises beginning one half hour before the event..

Iowans who are unable to attend a hearing can provide testimony via the Internet by visiting the Commission's Web site at [www.legis.state.ia.us](http://www.legis.state.ia.us) and clicking on "Health Care Survey" or by mailing written comments to the Iowa Legislative Services Agency, Ground Floor, State Capitol Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, Attn: Health Care Commission Public Hearings.

The first meeting will take place from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 4, at Iowa Western Community College's Looft Hall, 2700 College Road, Council Bluffs.

Additional meetings will take place in Indianola on Sept. 26 and Bettendorf on Sept. 27. For further details, visit [www.legis.state.ia.us](http://www.legis.state.ia.us) and click on "Legislative Commission on Affordable Health Care" or call the Legislative Information Office at 515-281-5129.

-end-